

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-20 NSC-10 ACDA-19

IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 /188 W

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R 051242Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5045

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: ADS DECLAS 12/5/74

TAGS: EAID, MT, KN

REF: VALLETTA 2091

1. DURING DEC. 4 SITTING OF PARLIAMENT PM MINTOFF ANNOUNCED THAT ARRIVAL IN MALTA OF THIRTY PEICES OF MACHINERY DONATED BY NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT (SEE REFTEL).

2. MINTOFF SAID: "ACCORDING TO THE AGREEMENT REACHED ON DECEMBER 20, 1971, FOLLOWING THE SETTING UP OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MALTA AND THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA THE PROMISED THIRTY MACHINES HAVE NOW REACHED MALTA. THE MALTESE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE MALTA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, WILL MAKE USE OF THIS MACHINERY TO ESTABLISH ENGINEERING UNITS PRODIVING A SPECIALIZED MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICE OF ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT IN LOCAL INDUSTRIES. IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT WITH THE USE OF THESE MACHINES, AND OTHERS TO FOLLOW, IT WOULD BECOME POSSIBLE TO PRODUCE IN MALTA ENGINEERING PARTS FOR THE LOCAL AND FOREIGN MARKETS. THE MALTA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, WILTH THE HELP OF THE GENERAL MANAGER OF MALTA DRYDOCKS, HAS ALREADY HAD TALKS ON

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THE SETTING UP OF A JOINT VENTURE WITH A SMALL MALTESE FIRM FOR THE

CREATION OF AN ENTERPRISE WHICH CAN GRADUALLY EXPAND AND PROVIDE WORK FOR MALE LABOR. ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MALTA I THANK THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOR THE PRESENT WHICH THEY GRACIOUSLY BROUGHT TO MALTA SO THAT OUR COUNTRY WILL INTENSIFY IT SEFFORTS TOWARDS RAPID INDUSTRIALIZATION AND WILL NO LONGER BE TIED FOR A LIVING TO A FOREIGN MILITARY BASE." MINTOFF IS REPORTED TO HAVE ESTIMATED THE VALUE OF THE NORTH KOREAN GIFT AT 10,000 MALTA POUNDS, ONE MALTA POUND EQUALS APPROXIMATELY 2.63 DOLLARS).

3. COMMENT: THIS LATEST EXAMPLE OF FOREIGN GENEROSITY AND GOM POOR MOUTHING ILLUSTRATES TWO FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE CURRENT MALTA LABOR PARTY ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIALIZATION. THESE ARE: (A) GRADUAL EXPANSION OF THE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES AND ROLE OF MALTA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, AND (B) DETERMINATION TO EXPAND WITHOUT EXPENDITURE FOR MACHINERY AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE. MOREOVER, SUCH FOREIGN GENEROSITY IS RARELY WITHOUT SOME GOM ARMTWISTING. PRESUMABLY, MINTOFF HAD UNDER PRC INFLUENCE, HAS HELD OUT FUTURE MALTESE SUPPORT FOR UNDETERMINED NORTH KOREA POSITIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE.GETZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDUSTRY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENGINEERING, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VALLET02405
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731242/aaaabeyh.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: VALLETTA 2091
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: EAID, MT, KN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005